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Eric Bowen
Western Washington University

Huxley College of the Environment, Western Washington University

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...And the world cannot be discovered by a journey of miles, no matter **1**
how long, but only by a spiritual journey, a journey of one inch, very
arduous and humbling and joyful, by which we arrive at the ground at our
feet, and learn to be at home. It is a journey we can make only by the
acceptance of mystery and of mystification--by yielding to the condition
that what we have expected is not there.

--Wendell Berry

HUXLEY HUMUS

OCT. 28, 1974

HERB

VEGETARIANS WANTED!

Vol. 4 no. 3

HUXLEY COLLEGE

BELLINGHAM, WASH. 98225 Tuesday this reporter talked to

Nov. 5 is election day for local, state, and national representatives. There are some good candidates this year, so REMEMBER TO VOTE!

The City of Bellingham has announced its application for permit to discharge 18 million gallons per day of treated wastewater (sewage effluent) from the new Post Point sewage treatment plant. Anyone interested in commenting should, before Nov. 11, send letters to:

Washington State Dept of Ecology
Northwest Regional Office
15345 NE 36th St.
Redmond, Wash. 98052

HUXLEY EVALUATION TO BE DISCUSSED

The Huxley evaluation committee report, available in the Huxley office, is the subject of two discussion meetings. The first, for Huxley students and faculty, will be held on Saturday, Nov. 2, from '9 to 12 AM in ESC 100. The second, open to all Western students and faculty, will take place on Tuesday, Nov. 5, from 1 to 5 PM in the Wilson Library presentation room.

Barb Knapp, a nutritionist who is interested in contacting vegetarians with children who are also vegetarians, for the purpose of conducting a study on the nutritional adequacy of such diets. Barb used to work as nutritionist at the Whatcom and Skagit rural health clinics. She will be doing the study with Chris Trahms, a PhD candidate at the University of Washington who did her MA thesis on Seattle-area vegetarian children. (Her findings, by the way, were that generally they were as healthy and happy as non-vegetarian kids.) Not much hard-core research has been done on this subject as yet and much more is needed, particularly since positive findings can go a long way towards refuting the belief that vegetarians are necessarily malnourished, and that 'meat is only way to eat'.

In exchange for the information provided by vegetarian families, Barb can offer free growth and development tests for the children. The survey will be done over the next few months. Those interested should contact Barb at 1417 Garden St., Bellingham, telephone 733-5474 or 734-6324. --CJB

2 The shore of Puget Sound is one of those unusual places where one can hear the sea and see the Sound.

--Anomalous

COUNTY SHORELINE REGULATIONS NEAR COMPLETION

It has been almost one year since I first served as a member of the Whatcom County Shoreline Citizen Committee. The Committee has been tasked with the duty of drafting regulations and policies for Whatcom County, in accordance with the guidelines in the Shoreline Management Act of 1971. If accepted by the County Planning Commission and the public, these policies will provide the standards that must be met by individuals applying for Shoreline Building Permits.

We are nearing the completion of the Draft, and should be scheduled for public hearings before Spring 1975.

Although the Committee meetings are open to the public, public participation at the meetings is not encouraged. We simply act as advisors to the County Planning Commission who will be ultimately responsible once public hearings begin. Before our draft is completed, those of you who are interested in the progress of the Committee are invited to attend one of our meetings. They are held at 7:30 PM on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month, in the 2nd Floor Conference Room of the Whatcom County Courthouse. Any further information can be provided by contacting me through the HERB Office.

-- Chris Abel

CHEMICAL WASTE DISPOSAL or HOW TO MAKE DEVEILED CRAB

The disposal of chemical wastes is becoming a serious problem for American industries. The Shell Chemical Co. has 19,000 metric tons of these corrosive chemicals in storage tanks at their Deer Park, Texas facilities. The chemicals are eating through the present tanks and the company is accumulating 2100 tons more each month, so the problem is real.

Despite protests from officials in Louisiana and Texas, the company began burning 4,628 tons of those chemical wastes last week on an incinerator ship in the Gulf of Mexico. This is the first time that chemical wastes have been burned off American shores, so depending upon the outcome, there will likely be a precedent set for future burnings.

The Environmental Protection Agency granted the company permission to burn the shipload of chlorinated hydrocarbons in the Gulf, 130 miles south of Cameron, Louisiana. The EPA ran tests on the water in the burn area prior to the burning so that they would be better able to determine if damage to marine life results from the burning.

--Michael R. Smith

People who dwell in the darkness
shouldn't throw candles.

--Anomalous

BOOK REVIEWSUPERSPILL: NIGHTMARE IN OIL

On a midsummer night in 1978, the 120,00 deadweight-ton supertanker Grand Canyon lost steerage in the southern section of Rosario Strait and ran aground on Bird Rocks. By dawn, thousands of tons of oil had poured out, coating the waters and shores of North Puget Sound from Birch Bay to the Olympic Peninsula and Vancouver Island. In tow to Seattle, the tanker split in two and released an additional massive spill into Elliott Bay.

Such is the stage for Superspill, a novel written as a warning or nightmarish premonition of the results of increased oil tanker traffic on the narrow straits of the northern Sound.

The bulk of the book details the immediate aftermath of the spill: cleanup operations, impact on fishing and tourism, international repercussions, political maneuvering. Written after a year of extensive research into the biotic, physical, chemical, economic, ecological, and mechanical aspects of oil spills, the book is a highly credible scenario of what actually would occur following such a spill.

While the book generally is factual in nature, the emotional and personal aspects of such a disaster are fully developed. Especially to those who are familiar with this region, the accounts of oily birds on the slimy shores of the San Juans, the dead fish at the Lummi Aquaculture project, the blackened boats in Bellingham Bay, evoke a sense of outrage and sorrow that such a disaster is even possible, let alone probable or actual. For those of us at Huxley College, the sense of identification is furthered by the account of a Huxley professor and his students taking inventory of the biotic damage caused by the spill. (The book's acknowledgements roster includes Dr. Herbert Webber of Huxley and several Huxley students).

The projected consequences of the spill as detailed in the book conform almost meticulously to currently documented facts on oil spills. More subject to debate is the probability that the spill would occur in the first place. It is worthy of note on this point that Puget Sound ship pilot Capt. Gunnar Olsborg revealed last summer that in 1973 a 60,000 ton oil tanker lost steerage at the entrance to Rosario Strait as it headed for Lawson Reef. By immediately reversing the engines, the ship managed to miss the rocks by less than 1000 yards. Unfavorable wind conditions could, however, have grounded the ship.

Superspill is Book of the Quarter this fall at WWSC. The second panel discussssion will be announced soon in the daily bulletin.

About the authors: Patricia Coburn is a college English instructor living in Seattle. Mary Kay Becker is a Bellingham resident and currently a candidate for 42nd District Representative fo the Washington State Legislature.

--Eric J. Bowen

U.N. POPULATION AND FOOD CONFERENCES

The world's population and food problems at last seem to be getting some attention. The World Population Conference held in Bucharest this August passed a highly controversial "World Population Plan of Action", which encourages those countries who feel or expect population growth will hamper their goals of promoting human welfare, to consider setting population-growth targets and policies for achieving them. Two targets proposed were slowing population-growth rates of the less developed countries to two percent per year (it is now 2.4) and lowering birth rates to 30 per thousand (now at 38). It also urged all countries to provide family planning information and materials to their peoples by 1985 at the latest.

On food, the World Food Conference to be held in Rome in November of this year will tackle such problems as how to grow more food in the less developed countries, improve food consumption, improve channels for early warnings of food shortages and emergency food relief programs, and improve international food trade and policies on world food stocks. However, the U.S.--the world's largest food exporter--still does not have an agreed-upon food policy as of yet. International food aid on the scale now needed has found little U.S. support because of steadily decreasing U.S. emergency food reserves (now at 27 days). Furthermore, U.S. financial and agricultural establishments seem to be chiefly concerned with good prices for farmers and the balance of payment problem, while most of its consumers and politicians are not in favor of fulfilling overseas demands that would tend to further inflate food prices at home. In short, both food and population problems present all nations with new reasons for increasing world cooperation and human unity. Although both these conferences are far from panaceas, like the U.N. Environmental Conference, they tend to raise world consciousness as to the magnitude of these problems, and are therefore small starts towards an effective collective response and an emerging world government.

--Dennis Smith

WATERCRESS (*Nasturtium officinale*)

Water Cress

Identification: Watercress is found in shallow, slowly moving streams, ditches, and springs all year long. Its jointed stems float and send out roots from joints to anchor it to suitable place. These white roots are highly visible hanging from floating stems. The leaves are pinnately compound and have 3 to 11 smooth, rounded leaflets. Leaflets are smooth and fleshy, dark green and have smooth but irregular edges. White flowers are borne in clusters at the end of stems and have 4 petals in the shape of a cross. The flowers are replaced by elongated, somewhat flattened seed pods--usually $\frac{1}{2}$ - 1" long--which contain 2 parallel rows of seeds. The stem is 6 - 8" long, floating or 2 - 4 inches above the water.



PUBLIC INPUT NEEDED FOR
LAND USE STUDY - - -

Collection and Use: Lower parts of the stem are often tough and stringy, so only the leafy ends need be collected. Snap them off without disturbing the plant. Best use is in raw salad, but it also makes an excellent pot herb if barely cooked. It is good for soups and stews.

Always wash watercress when eating it raw, since it will grow in polluted streams and bacteria cling to the stems.

Medica: Watercress is high in vitamins C and E and has a high content of organic minerals without oxalic acid (as in spinach). It contains magnesium and is used as a bloodbuilder, can clear skin of pimples and sores, and is eaten to dissolve kidney stones.

The Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest Headquarters is asking for public input into their Mt. Baker Land Use Study. By writing a simple letter to the Hqs, explaining your interest in the Study, will "score" you a questionnaire asking your opinions pertaining to the Study. Requests for questionnaires must be post marked no later than Nov 2.

Write:

Mt. Baker Land Use Study
c/o Don Culver
Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National
Forest Headquarters
601 2nd Avenue
Seattle, Wa. 98104

Despair!

they say
for the world will end
and --- we with it

by bomb
by chemical
by madman
by dollar
by virus
by gas
by ozone
by... by... by...

but what is the world but one more
less-than-star?
Why despair for it in the midst of
all else?
What ripples would its passing call?

none.

-- JL

HUMUS STAFF

Editor: Eric Bowen
Writers: Chris Abel, Carola
Burroughs, Eric Bowen, Doug Adams,
Dennis Smith, Michael Smith, "JL",
anomalous, J.

The Huxley Humus is published weekly by the Huxley Environmental Reference Bureau/Humus Collective. Contributions from readers (poetry, drawings, essays, announcements, etc.) are solicited. The submission deadline is 12:00 noon, Thursday, for the following Monday's issue.

Q: What do you get when you chlorinate water of high coliform content?
A. Chloroform.

A special U.N. stamp on the Law of the Sea will be issued on Nov. 22. Jacques-Yves Cousteau interprets his design:

"All life originated in the Sea; the Sea remains the Mother of Life and as such needs protection. Man, cousin of the Dolphin, is on top of the pyramid of life in the Sea. The umbilical cord suggests humans' ties with the Sea and with the Dolphin--the brains and the eyes coincide.

Man is today returning to the Sea; suggested by the 45-degree angle of the Dolphin. The future could be bright if mankind makes peace with the Sea; the Dolphin smiles...."

